



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE AGING COMMITTEE
REGARDING S.B. 620,
AN ACT CONCERNING A PLAN TO ENCOURAGE “AGING IN PLACE”

February 24, 2011

Senator Prague, Senator Serra and members of the Aging Committee, my name is Deborah Hoyt and I am the President and CEO of the Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice (CAHCH), whose member agencies serve over 100,000 elderly, disabled and terminally ill Connecticut citizens. CAHCH fully **supports** SB 620 establishing a legislative task force to encourage people to age in place.

The home care industry supports the State of Connecticut’s goal of rebalancing long term care to the most cost-effective and patient-preferred care setting – their home. According to a 2010 study by the University of Connecticut, more than 80% of residents prefer to receive home-based care where they can remain connected to family members and loved ones.

Studies also support the importance of investing in the infrastructure which supports quality home care delivery. The work of a legislative task force will aid to ensure the viability of Connecticut’s health care system by enabling patient care to be appropriately shifted from more costly institutional care to more cost-effective home care.

As the “united voice of home care and hospice” in Connecticut, CAHCH would welcome the opportunity to participate on this Task Force. Our interests are two-fold-- to play a role in the development of a comprehensive plan which will foster a change in Connecticut culture toward aging in place and ensure that Connecticut citizens receive appropriate and safe home care services.

Thank you for consideration of our testimony. I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Please contact me at hoyt@cahch.org or 203-294-7349.